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UNCLAS PARIS 001526

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/IFD/ODF (MONSARRAT), EAP AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EFIN FR

SUBJECT: TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION: FRANCE WILL PARTICIAPE IN
PRE-HIGH LEVEL MEETING TELECONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 38823

1B. MONSARRAT E-MAILS 4 MARCH AND PREVIOUS
1C. MERTEN-ALSUP/MONSARRAT E-MAIL 8 MARCH 2005

11. (U) On 7 March, Econ Chief passed ref A paper and ref B agenda to Eric Chevalier, deputy to Jean-Claude Mallet, the newly named Interagency Coordinator for Tsunami Relief. Chevalier confirmed that Mallet would participate in the conference call on 9 March. Chevalier welcomed the U.S. initiative in organizing the call and only noted that the agenda seemed very focused on U.S. activities and priorities. He said he hoped that other participants would have a chance to give their views and highlight their plans.

12. (U) Mallet was recently appointed to this position after stepping down in 2004 as the Director-General of the SGDN (General Secretary for National Defense) where he had served since 1998. In a prior high-profile assignment, Mallet served as director of the office of strategic affairs (DAS) at the Ministry of Defense from 1992-98. From 1989-91, Mallet served as then Interior Minister Pierre Joxe's international affairs advisor. Mallet holds degrees in law and literature and graduated from the prestigious National School of Administration (ENA). He speaks English and Spanish fluently (full bio passed in ref C).

Leach